

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 10-16, 18, and 20 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, Applicants AMEND claims 1 and 11.

The Examiner has failed to indicate that the IDS submitted on April 23, 2002 has been considered. Applicants have provided a copy of the previously submitted IDS, including the Form PTO-1449 and the references, herewith. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the IDS in the next Office Action and provide Applicants with a signed and initialed Form PTO-1449 indicating that the Examiner has considered all prior art references listed thereon.

Claims 1, 2, 6, 8, 10-14, 16, 18 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicants' Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of Yasuda et al. (JP 4-367569). Claims 5 and 15 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicants' Admitted Prior Art in view of Yasuda et al. and further in view of Shirahata et al. (U.S. 6,005,468). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections of claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 10-16, 18, and 20.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite:

"A method of firing magnetic cores comprising the steps of:  
providing a plurality of flattened-ring compact bodies made of a magnetic material and having flattened through holes;  
attaching a powder made of an organic material to an outer surface of the plurality of flattened-ring compact bodies;  
**attaching the plurality of flattened-ring compact bodies to one another so that axes of the flattened through-holes are vertically arranged;**  
firing the flattened-ring compact bodies while the powder is interposed between the adjacent flattened-ring compact bodies such that **said powder is vaporized during the firing step;** and  
separating each of said plurality of flattened-ring compact bodies from the adjacently arranged plurality of flattened-ring compact bodies."  
(emphasis added)

Applicants' claim 1 recites the features of "attaching the plurality of flattened-ring compact bodies to one another so that axes of the flattened through-holes are vertically

arranged" and "said powder is vaporized during the firing step." Applicants' claim 11 recites features and method steps that are similar to the features and method step recited in Applicants' claim, including the emphasized features and method steps. Applicants agree with the Examiner that AAPA teaches a method of firing magnetic cores and does not teach or suggest the step of attaching a powder. The Examiner has relied upon Yasuda et al. to cure this deficiency in AAPA.

However, neither AAPA or Yasuda et al. teach or suggest the step of "attaching the plurality of flattened-ring compact bodies to one another so that axes of the flattened through-holes are vertically arranged" recited in Applicants' claims 1 and 11.

AAPA clearly shows in **Fig. 5** that the plurality of flattened-ring compact bodies are separate from each other, **NOT** that the plurality of flattened-ring compact bodies are attached to one another as recited in Applicants' claims 1 and 11.

Yasuda et al. is completely silent on the arrangement of the plurality of flattened-ring compact bodies as recited in Applicants' claims 1 and 11, and certainly fails to teach or suggest that the flattened rings are attached to one another as recited in the present claimed invention.

Further, the Examiner has alleged that the powder of Yasuda et al. vaporizes during the firing step as recited in Applicants' claims 1 and 11. However, the English abstract is completely silent about this feature. In fact, the English abstract of Yasuda et al. only mentions that the powder does not fuse during the firing step, not that the powder vaporizes during the firing step as recited in Applicants' claims 1 and 11.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over AAPA in view of Yasuda et al.

The Examiner has relied upon Shirahata et al. to cure various deficiencies in the combined teachings of AAPA and Yasuda et al. However, Shirahata et al. clearly fails to teach or suggest the features of "attaching the plurality of flattened-ring compact bodies to one another so that axes of the flattened through-holes are vertically

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arranged" and "said powder is vaporized during the firing step" recited in Applicants' claims 1 and 11.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that AAPA, Yasuda et al., and Shirahata et al., applied alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the unique combination and arrangement of elements and method steps recited in claims 1 and 11 of the present application. Claims 2-10 depend upon claim 1 and are therefore allowable for at least the reasons that claim 1 is allowable. Claims 12-20 depend upon claim 11 and are therefore allowable for at least the reasons that claim 11 is allowable.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are solicited.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition the Commissioner for a ONE-month extension of time, extending to May 23, 2003, the period for response to the Office Action dated January 23, 2003.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1353.

Respectfully submitted,

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